

Small Group Leader Guide

Today's Suggested Schedule

Prelude: Setting the tone for the experience

See the Getting Ready pages at the end of this document for a detailed description of what you'll need for today. In the Prelude folder of your curriculum, you'll find a variety of other resources to help you prepare.

Small Group (15 minutes)

Social: Providing time for fun interaction

1. Band Together
2. Mural of Thanks
3. Bag of Thanks

Large Group (35 minutes)

Worship: Inviting people to respond to God

Story: Communicating God's truth in engaging ways

- Worship
- Bible Story
- Prayer

Small Group (25 minutes)

Groups: Creating a safe place to connect

1. Praise Dance Party
2. Praise Parade
3. Thank God
4. Dancing Ribbons

Home: Prompting action beyond the experience

- Going Home
- Memory Verse Card
- [Parent Cue App](#) and [ParentCue.org](#)

THIS MONTH



Today's Bible Story

I can praise God.

David Praises God

2 Samuel 6:12-15

Key Question

Who can thank God for everything?

Bottom Line

I can thank God for everything.

Memory Verse

"I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart."

Psalms 111:1 ESV

EveryChild Tips



This leader guide is designed to be inclusive of children with a special need, learning difference, or disability who attend a group with their peers. See highlighted sections below for additional inclusive prompts. Check out the additional Special Needs resources included.

2 Year-Olds

Small Group

November — Week 5

SOCIAL 1/3

Band Together



What You Need

- ☐ Musical Instruments

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Noise cancelling headphones



EveryChild Tips

Provide noise-cancelling headphones for any child who might find this activity overwhelming

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Place the instruments out on a table or the floor.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to pick an instrument and play it as you move and dance around the room.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"I love to hear how all these instruments sound together. Would you like to play music with me?"

During the Activity

"Everyone, pick an instrument and let's start playing. You can walk around or dance while you play. **(PAUSE.)** Wow! We sound so great! You're doing such a good job playing those instruments!" **(REPEAT AS DESIRED.)**

After the Activity

"Today in our true story from the Bible, we're going to learn about a man who loved to play instruments and praise God! I can't wait. Let's go!"

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by forming a line and pretending to play instruments in a marching band to the designated area.

SOCIAL 2/3

Mural of Thanks


 USES MINIMAL
SUPPLIES


 MADE TO
Play

What You Need

- ☐ "Mural of Thanks" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Butcher paper
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Chisel tip permanent marker
- ☐ Painter's tape

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Adaptive scissors or adaptive crayons



EveryChild Tips

Offer Inclusive Optional Supplies for children with fine motor delays.

For non-verbal children, encourage pointing to pictures.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Mural of Thanks" on cardstock and cut, three sets per Small Group.
2. Tape a large sheet of butcher paper on a table or wall at child's height.
3. Write the words "I Can Thank God for Everything!" across the top in big, clear letters.
4. Set out the pictures, glue sticks, and crayons where children can easily reach them.

During the Activity

1. Invite children to choose pictures from the table that show things they are thankful for, like family, animals, or food. Glue the pictures onto the butcher paper.
2. Model and encourage them to draw their own ideas if they don't find a picture they like.
3. As they work, talk to them about what they chose and why they are thankful for it.
4. Celebrate each response with phrases like, "That's a great thing to thank God for!"

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Today we're going to make a big thank-you mural! We'll use pictures and drawings to show all the things we can thank God for. Let's thank Him together!"

During the Activity

"[CHILD'S NAME], you picked a picture of a family. How wonderful! God gave you your family. [CHILD'S NAME], you drew your favorite food! Yum! We can thank God for food, too. That's a great thing to thank God for! (CONTINUE CELEBRATING AND COMMENTING AS EACH CHILD ADDS TO THE MURAL.) This is beautiful! You all made something so special."

After the Activity

"When we look at this, we remember that we can thank God for all of these things. Let's get ready to hear our true Bible Story about someone who thanked God with music and dancing!"

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by saying thank you in ASL for each friend and things you pass on the way to your designated area.

SOCIAL 3/3

Bag of Thanks

What You Need

- ☐ Little People®
- ☐ Opaque bag
- ☐ Toy food
- ☐ Toy animals
- ☐ Small items from around the classroom



EveryChild Tips

Pair children up to do the activity together.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Place all the items in the bag.
2. Gather the children in the activity area and sit on the floor in a circle.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children, one at a time, to reach their hand into the bag and pull out an item.
2. Explain that after each item is pulled out of the bag everyone will say, "Thank You, God, for [item's name]."
3. Continue with each child and repeat as desired.

After the Activity

Introduce the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, come sit with me on the floor in a big circle. I have a bag filled with so many fun things that we're going to thank God for today."

During the Activity

"Everyone will get a turn pulling one thing out of this bag. After you pull it out, hold it up for everyone to see. Then we'll thank God for that item. I'll start. (HOLD BAG IN YOUR HAND, CLOSE YOUR EYES, AND PULL OUT AN ITEM.) Wow, it's a/an [ITEM]! (HOLD UP THE ITEM.) Okay, friends let's all thank God for [ITEM'S NAME]. Thank You, God, for [ITEM'S NAME]! That was so much fun! Let's keep going. (PASS THE BAG TO THE NEXT PERSON.) What did you pull out of the bag? (PAUSE.) Fantastic! Thank You, God, for [ITEM'S NAME]! (CONTINUE WITH EACH CHILD.) You all have such thankful hearts!"

After the Activity

"We can always thank God for everything. We can thank God for our family, our food, our pets, our toys, everything! Today, we're going to hear about a man named David who was very thankful to God. Let's go hear all about it!"

Transition → Move to Worship and Story by continuing the activity; pulling one item out and holding it up for children to tell you what the items are.

GROUPS 1/4

Praise Dance Party

Memory Verse Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Memory Verse Sticker" Activity Page
- ☐ Avery® Labels #22830 or equivalent
- ☐ Painter's tape

EveryChild Tips

Pair children up to do the activity together.

For a version with less movement, encourage children to dance in place while standing or sitting.



① What You Do

Note → You can find examples of hand motions in the "Memory Verse Hand Motions" PDF and video, included in the Prelude folder and on Pinterest.

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Memory Verse Sticker" on label paper, one label per child.
2. Tape two parallel lines on the floor about three feet apart and six feet long to create a pathway.
3. Ask the children to sit on the lines on either side of the path.
4. Review the Memory Verse with the motions together

During the Activity

1. Call on the children, one at a time, to walk down the path, dancing like David as you repeat the words of the verse together.
2. Give each child a sticker once they make it down the line.
3. Make sure each child has a turn as "David."

After the Activity

Connect the Memory Verse to the Bottom Line.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends, gather here and sit on either side of our pathway. Let's say our Memory Verse together with the motions. 'I will give thanks (MOVE FLAT HAND FORWARD FROM CHIN) to the LORD (POINT UP) with my whole heart,' (TAP HEART TWICE) Psalm 111:1. (OPEN HANDS LIKE A BOOK.) Great job everyone!"

During the Activity

"In our Bible Story today, we talked about how David danced and sang as a way to say thank you to God! When I call your name, I want you to dance all the way down this path as we say our Memory Verse together. [CHILD'S NAME], show us your dance down the path. Friends, say it with me. 'I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,' Psalm 111:1. Great dancing! Here is a sticker for you! (GIVE CHILD A STICKER.) Sit down on the tape line. [CHILD'S NAME], your turn! (CONTINUE WITH EACH CHILD.) Wow! I saw some pretty awesome dance moves! Everyone, clap for yourself. (PAUSE.) Super-duper!"

After the Activity

"David showed God that he was thankful by dancing and singing, and we can too! There are lots of ways we can say 'Thank You, God,' anytime and anywhere. Who can thank God for everything? (BOTTOM LINE) I can thank God for everything."

GROUPS 2/4

Praise Parade

Bible Story Review

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ Paper or toy crown
- ☐ Music player
- ☐ Praise music

EveryChild Tips

Move with a buddy so every one has an opportunity to participate.

If a child prefers, allow them to carry the crown or lead without the crown.



① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Gather children in an open area of the room.

During the Activity

1. Take turns wearing the crown and leading everyone around the room in a praise parade.
2. Encourage children to dance, clap and make music with hand horns.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Let's have parade and praise God together!"

During the Activity

"In our Bible Story today, King David praised God! When we praise God, it's like a big THANK YOU to God!"

"Hey! Let's take turns pretending to be King David leading a praise parade! [CHILD'S NAME], you can be King David first and stand at the front of our parade. Everyone else can dance, clap, or toot a horn like this (DEMONSTRATE) while they follow King David!"

(START THE PRAISE MUSIC.) "Come on everyone! Let's have a praise parade and follow [CHILD'S NAME]! Woo-hoo! Now let's have a new king. [CHILD'S NAME] it's your turn to be King David and lead our praise parade! (CONTINUE AS TIME AND INTEREST ALLOW.) Great job friends!"

After the Activity

"I love praising God with you! We can praise God any time we want to thank Him for something like friends, a toy, people who help us, even for a bowl of cereal, because we can thank God for everything! Who can thank God for everything? [BOTTOM LINE] I can thank God for everything!"

2 Year-Olds

Small Group

November — Week 5

GROUPS 3/4

Thank God

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

→ No supplies needed



EveryChild Tips

Pair children to act it out together.

Assist children by quietly giving ideas or drawing picture cues.

① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Gather the children in an open area in the room.

During the Activity

1. Help children act out things we can thank God for.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Friends come over here and let's play a fun game to remember our Bible Story!"

During the Activity

"I will say 'I can thank God for... spaghetti! Show me how you act out spaghetti. (PAUSE.) Whoa! Super fun! Okay next one. I can thank God for... family! Give yourself a big hug! (PAUSE.) Great job! I can thank God for... friends! Everyone go give a friend a high five! (PAUSE.) So good. I can thank God for... people to help me! Pretend to help someone carry a box or open a door. (PAUSE.) Great job! Now when I say 'praise God,' I want you to do a dance of praise! Ready? Praise God! (REPEAT THESE AS MANY TIMES AS YOU DESIRE. IT MIGHT BE FUN TO GO THROUGH THEM SUPER-FAST OR SUPER SLOW.) Great job everyone!"

After the Activity

"Praising God is a big thank you! Today in our Bible Story, David praised God to tell Him thank you. We can praise God to tell Him thank you too. Who can thank God for everything? [BOTTOM LINE] I can thank God for everything! One more time. Who can thank God for everything? [BOTTOM LINE] I can thank God for everything!"

2 Year-Olds

Small Group

November — Week 5

GROUPS 4/4

Dancing Ribbons

Application Activity

Faith Skills

Hear from God

Pray to God

Talk about God

Live for God

What You Need

- ☐ "Dancing Ribbons Label" Activity Page
- ☐ Avery® Labels #5160 or equivalent
- ☐ Ribbons in a variety of colors and widths
- ☐ Rubber bands
- ☐ Craft sticks
- ☐ Stickers
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Permanent marker

EveryChild Tips



Create an example for children to see.



① What You Do

Before the Activity

1. Copy "Dancing Ribbons Label" on label paper, one label per child.
2. Cut ribbons into 16-inch lengths, five per child.
3. Write each child's name on a craft stick.

During the Activity

1. Encourage children to pick five ribbons of any color and stack them together.
2. Thread the stack through the rubber band and knot.
3. Wrap each child's rubber band around one end of their craft stick until secure.
4. Encourage children to decorate their craft stick with their label and stickers.

After the Activity

Connect the Bottom Line to the Bible Story.

② What You Say

Before the Activity

"Hooray! I'm so glad you're here! Come join me at the table. I have something fun for you to make today! It's a ribbon dancer that you can wave and dance and praise God with!"

During the Activity

"Look at all these pretty colored ribbons! You can pick any five ribbons for your dancer. They can be all the same color or different. **(COUNT AS THE CHILDREN PICK THEIR RIBBONS TO MAKE SURE THEY GET FIVE.)** Great job! Now let's thread them through the rubber band like this **(DEMONSTRATE.)** Then we need to tie them in a knot. **(DEMONSTRATE. HELP AS NEEDED.)** Next, I'll wrap the rubber band around your craft stick several times, so the ribbons stay put. **(PAUSE.)** Ta-dah! **(SHAKE THE RIBBON DANCER.)** Put this sticker on your craft stick. It says, **[BOTTOM LINE]** I can thank God for everything. Finish decorating your stick with any of these other stickers. **(PAUSE.)** Great job! Hold them still and we'll use them after we review."

After the Activity

"Today we learned about a king named David. David loved God, and he wanted to praise God to show Him he was thankful for everything. David danced to praise God. David used his voice to praise God and David used instruments to praise God. You can praise God by playing an instrument, singing, or dancing too! There are all kinds of ways we can praise God and say, Thank You, God, for everything. Wave your rainbow dancer and say, Thank You, God, for everything. **(WITH CHILDREN.)** Thank You, God, for everything. Who can you thank for everything? **[BOTTOM LINE]** I can thank God for everything."

Getting Ready

Social

Offer one or more of the following activities as preschoolers arrive. Let one or two Small Group Leaders lead activities in different areas of the room while another leader greets parents and children at the door.

Groups

Offer as many of the following activities as your time, facilities, resources, and leadership allow. You may want to lead one activity at a time. Or offer two activities at once and allow half the children to participate in each. Then switch groups and repeat the activities

Pinterest

Visit our Pinterest page to see craft samples and suggested supplies.
https://bit.ly/FL_GoingOnAPicnic

Social

Band Together

- ☐ Musical Instruments – one per child

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Noise Cancelling Headphones

1. Place the instruments out on a table or the floor.

Mural of Thanks

- ☐ "Mural of Thanks" Activity Page
- ☐ Cardstock
- ☐ Butcher Paper
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Glue sticks
- ☐ Crayons
- ☐ Chisel tip permanent marker
- ☐ Painter's tape

Inclusive Optional Supplies

- ☐ Adaptive scissors or larger crayons

1. Copy "Mural of Thanks" on cardstock and cut, three sets per Small Group.
2. Tape a large sheet of butcher paper on a table or wall at child's height.
3. Write the words "I Can Thank God for Everything!" across the top in big, clear letters.
4. Set out the pictures, glue sticks, and crayons where children can easily reach them.

Bag of Thanks

- ☐ Little People®
- ☐ Opaque bag
- ☐ Toy food
- ☐ Toy animals
- ☐ Small items from around the classroom

1. Encourage children, one at a time, to reach their hand into the bag and pull out an item. Explain that after each item is pulled out of the bag everyone will say, "Thank You, God, for [item's name]."
2. Continue with each child and repeat as desired.

Continued on the next page →

Getting Ready

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Groups

Praise Dance Party

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- ☐ Avery® Labels #22830 or equivalent
- ☐ Painter's tape

1. Copy "Memory Verse Sticker" on label paper, one label per child.
2. Tape two parallel lines on the floor about three feet apart and six feet long to create a pathway.

Praise Parade

- ☐ Paper or toy crown
- ☐ Music player
- ☐ Praise music

Thank God

→ No Supplies Needed

Dancing Ribbons

- ☐ "Dancing Ribbons Label" Activity Page
- ☐ Avery® Labels #5160 or equivalent
- ☐ Ribbons in a variety of colors and widths
- ☐ Rubber bands
- ☐ Craft sticks
- ☐ Stickers
- ☐ Scissors
- ☐ Permanent marker

1. Copy "Dancing Ribbons Label" on label paper, one label per child.
2. Cut ribbons into 16-inch lengths, five per child.
3. Write each child's name on a craft stick.

Home

- Make copies on cardstock or email this week's Parent Cue Card.
- Copy the Memory Verse Card to hand out or make available to parents.
- Copy "Going Home" and hang it on the door where Small Group Leaders can reference and remind parents of the Bottom Line and Memory Verse as parents pick up their children.
- Tell parents about our additional family resource, the **Parent Cue App** and **ParentCue.org**.